

In re PULLELA ET AL., Application No. 10/625,063  
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### REMARKS

The Office action dated September 6, 2006, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the amendments presented herein and consider the following remarks. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the thoughtful examination and present amendments herein to put the case in condition for allowance or appeal.

First, Applicants appreciate the Office discovering the typographical errors which have been corrected.

Next, Applicants respectfully traverse the § 101 rejection as the claims as previously recited (and currently recite) comply with the USPTO's 101 Guidelines and the underlying case law by affirmatively reciting that the information was tangibly stored even if the term storage mechanism may be broader. Claim limitations limit the claims to that recited, i.e., being tangibly stored. However, as Applicants' current language preference for Beauregard-style claims is currently different, claims 12-17 and 29-30 are amended herein to recite the limitation of "[l]ogic encoded in one or more tangible media for execution...", which renders this issue moot. Support is at least provided by the previously pending Beauregard-style claims, as well as FIGs. 2A-D and 3A and their discussion in the originally filed application. Applicants believe this phraseology complies with § 101, and therefore, Applicants respectfully request the § 101 rejections be withdrawn.

In regards to the rejections based on prior art, Applicants note that the official statement of the rejection for claim 2 is on pages 4-5, with this statement being different than the Response to Arguments section beginning on page 8 of the Office action. As previously pointed out by Applicants, the rejection of independent claim 2 equates the VPI/VCI of Ikeda to the limitation of a flow identification value (copied from prior Office action to page 4, 2nd to last line of the current Office action). This causes the official rejection to fail to present a *prima facie* rejection as it fails to apply the reference to claim limitations in a coherent manner following the use of

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the same limitation in multiple places in the claim. The Response to Arguments on beginning on page 8 of the current Office action argues on page 10 that the recited limitation in claim 2 of the flow identification value now corresponds to Ikeda's VPI/VCI and flow retrieval key, which is different than that stated in the prior Office action and is different than the rejection of the claim in the current Office action. In any event, Applicants believe the claims as amended herein are patentably distinct from the prior art of record, individually or in combination.

There are four independent claims pending in the current application: claims 2, 10, 12, and 20. All of these claims are amended herein to recite that the lookup value includes the flow identification value, and the lookup value is what is masked by the retrieved mask. The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all such limitations. For example, as shown in FIG. 1 of Ikeda et al. and as the Office applies Ikeda et al. the lookup value including the flow identification value is not masked. Ikeda et al.'s retrieval flag 24 is retrieved based on the VPI/VCI of an ATM cell, and the VPI/VCI is not masked. In fact it is impossible for Ikeda et al. to operate as recited in the claims, as VPI/VCI is *not supplied* to Retrieval Key Mask Section, and therefore, it can't be masked.

For at least these reasons, the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all the claim limitations of any independent claim, and therefore, neither teaches nor suggests all the claim limitations of any pending claim. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections based on prior art be withdrawn.

Applicants further note the well-established law that the burden is on the Office to initially present a *prima facie* unpatentability (e.g., anticipation, obvious) rejection, before Applicant has any burden of proof of disproving any application of a cited reference against a claim. *In re Warner*, 379 F2d. 1011, 1016, 154 USPA 173, 177 (C.C.P.A. 1967); *Ex parte Skinner*, 2 USPQ2d 1788, 1788-89 (B.P.A.I. 1986). Therefore, Applicants have no further burden of addressing the claim rejections.

Applicants will now provide a roadmap of the claim amendments presented herein. Claim 2 is amended to recite that the lookup value includes the flow identification value with

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support by several of the figures and associated text including, but not limited to FIG. 2A item 203, FIG. 2B item 223, FIG. 2C item 243, and FIG 3A, item 303. Applicants have also included the limitations of the flow identification value being identified by extracted fields (original application, page 10, line 17 et seq.), lookup operation in memories or associative memories (*id.* at page 10, line 26 et seq.), and processing a packet (its previously pending dependent claim 27, original application, page 11, line 6 et seq.). Claim 3 is canceled, so the dependencies of claims 4-7 are updated. Claims 6 and 8 are amended to define the term access control list with support provided by FIG. 1C and the original application page 11, line 19 et seq. Support for the amendments to claims 10, 12 and 20 are discussed in relation to claim 2. Claims 13 is canceled, with the dependency of claim 29 being updated. Claim 21 is canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 16 and 24 are discussed in relation to claims 6 and 8. Claims 26-27 are canceled. Claim 28 is amended to correct the claim dependency. Support for new claims 30-32 is discussed in relation to claims 6 and 8.

For at least the reasons presented herein, all claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record, and Applicants respectfully request that all objections/rejections be withdrawn, all claims be allowed, and the application be pass to issuance.

**Final Remarks.** Applicants believe a two-month extension of time is required. Should an extension of time be deemed appropriate, Applicants hereby petition for such deemed extension of time. Applicants further authorize the charging of Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fees that may be due in connection with this paper (e.g., claim fees, extension of time fees).

In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over all prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. Applicant requests any and all rejections and/or objections be withdrawn. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite the

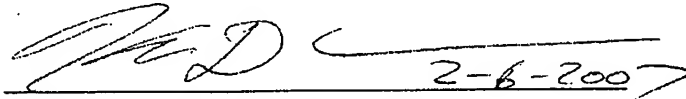
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prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney, as  
Applicants are open to discussing, considering, and resolving issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
**The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams**

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By



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